The OMCs have reported combined losses of Rs. 14,431 crore during the First half of 2008-09. Their combined borrowings at the end of November, 2008 stood at Rs.1,15,000 crore with an interest burden of Rs.8,100 crore during 2008-09. Their total under-recoveries on the sale of sensitive petroleum products at the current prices are projected to be Rs.1,10,381 crore during 2008-09.

International prices of crude oil have come down since August, 2008. The average price of Indian Basket of crude oil was $ 50.91 per barrel during November, 2008 and $ 42.27 per barrel during December, 2008 (upto 16th). At the current international oil prices, the OMCs are incurring under-recoveries on the sale of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG.

Supply of gas to power projects in Andhra Pradesh

2454. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has been requested by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to issue necessary instruction to Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to supply gas from Ravva Satellite Fields to the power projects in Andhra Pradesh at Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) price;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken thereon; and

(c) the justification for asking Andhra Pradesh based all APM customer power projects to pay a non-APM price for Ravva Satellite gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was decided that the gas from Ravva Satellite field be directly sold by GAIL (India) Ltd. at market determined prices from March 2003.

(c) According to the provisions of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government and the Joint Venture Company (JVC), the producers of gas produced from Ravva Satellite field or any additional gas from other JV fields have the freedom to sell gas at market price or offer it to the Government nominee. The JVC producing Ravva Satellite gas decided to sell gas at market price through GAIL. Hence, gas produced from Ravva Satellite field is not sold at APM rate.

Investment made by State owned companies

2455. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the money spent by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and other State owned companies on oil exploration in India in the last three years;

(b) the quantity of oil discovered by them during the period; and

(c) the money invested abroad by State owned companies for oil exploration along with the returns this investment has fetched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Money spent by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and other National/State Oil Companies on oil exploration in India during the last three Years is about to Rs. 18388.10 Crore.

(b) The reserve estimates of oil in the blocks, where discoveries have been made by companies, will be known only after appraisal of discoveries and assessment of production potential.

(c) The money invested abroad by National Oil Companies for equity oil in the last three years 2005-08 was about Rs. 19336.38 Crore.

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has obtained a return of Capital Employed (ROCE) (profit before Interest Depreciation and Tax to Capital Employed) as per audited annual accounts of the company for the last three years which is given below:

Year	ROCE
2005-06	19.40%
2006-07	30.35%
2007-08	57.45%

Other National Oil Companies are engaged in various stages of Exploration and have not obtained return on investment.

Exploration of oil in Eastern Andhra Pradesh

2456. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has struck oil in Eastern Andhra Pradesh offshore;

(b) whether the discovery is the most significant after the ultra-deep sea UDI gas found in Krishna Godavari basin in December, 2006;

(c) the oil volume estimated to come from the area by 2012-13 when nearby oil fields are developed through a common production facility;

(d) if so, to what extent this will help in reducing our demand; and

(e) what are other steps being taken to further strike oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has recently made an oil discovery about 15 kms. off the Andhra coast.

The potential of this discovery is being assessed by the ONGC. The oil production from KG Basin area by Private/Joint Venture companies expected to be 13600 barrels of oil per day by